

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053619

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, OCON, UN, XF

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE: POSITION PAPER ON ISRAELI
PARTICIPATION

ISRAELI PARTICIPATION - CONTINGENCY POSITION PAPER

THE ISSUE

ALTHOUGH NOT LIKELY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ISRAELI
CREDENTIALS MAY BE CHALLENGED AND/OR AN ATTEMPT BE
MADE TO BAR/LIMIT ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN THE WATER
CONFERENCE. AT HABITAT, LIBYA OBJECTED TO ISRAEL'S
PRESENCE BUT CONFINED ITS OPPOSITION TO THE INSERTION
OF A RESERVATION IN THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COM-
MITTEE. IF THIS ISSUE DEVELOPS INTO A SERIOUS CHALLENGE
TO ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE, IT COULD BE THE BARO-
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METER INDICATING THE SERIOUS POLITICIZATION OF THE
CONFERENCE.

DISCUSSION

THIS PAPER SHOULD BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
OTHER CONTINGENCY PAPERS DEALING WITH (1) ZIONISM-

RACISM; (2) OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; (3) BOUNDARY RIVER DISPUTES; AND (4) SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION.

SOME AFRICAN STATES HAVE RECENTLY SOUGHT TO MODERATE EXTREME ANTI-ISRAEL MEASURES IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. CONCRETE RESULTS WHICH HAVE RESULTED FROM THIS INCLUDE UNESCO'S RATIFICATION OF ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN REGION, AND THE AFRICAN DEFEAT OF A MOVE TO RECOMMEND ISRAELI EXPULSION FROM THE UN WHICH SURFACED AT THE OAU SUMMIT IN KAMPALA IN 1975.

US POSITION

1. THE US DELEGATION SHOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY ANY INDICATIONS OF A CHALLENGE TO ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE. WHILE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS, THE DELEGATION SHOULD CONSULT WITH OTHER WESTERN AND AFRICAN DELEGATIONS TO SEEK WAYS OF THWARTING THE INTRODUCTION OF SUCH MEASURES.

2. THE US WOULD VIEW RESTRICTIONS ON ISRAELI PARTICIPATION AS A SETBACK TO CURRENT EFFORTS TO CREATE A CLIMATE FOR SERIOUS PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. IF PROTESTS TO ISRAELI PARTICIPATION ARE CONFINED TO THE INSERTION OF RESERVATIONS IN THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, THE US DELEGATION SHOULD MAKE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD:

"AS WE HAVE SAID ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, THE US BELIEVES THAT THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MAY PROPERLY EXAMINE ONLY THE CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATIONS, AND IT CANNOT MAKE POLITICAL JUDGMENTS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER. WE REGRET THAT SOME STATES HAVE CHOSEN THE SHORT-SIGHTED TACTIC OF OPENING THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE WITH AN EXTRANEIOUS POLEMICAL ATTACK ON ANOTHER STATE. WE HOPE THE CONFERENCE WILL PROCEED, FREE OF CONTENTION, TO DISCUSSION OF WATER-RELATED ISSUES."

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